

## **IN THE CLAIMS**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application. An identifier indicating the status of each claim is provided.

### **Listing of Claims**

1-72 (Canceled)

73. (Currently Amended) A signal encoding method ~~characterized by~~comprising:  
detecting a high signal level portion of a video signal and/or audio signal in a predetermined time interval; and

inserting an identification signal relevant to the video signal and/or audio signal ~~only~~  
within a low signal level portion temporally before or after the detected high level portion of the video signal and/or audio signal,

wherein the identification signal includes noise-like bits that have a meaning at a certain time width that compulsorily sets a given domain to selected bits independent of a statistically represented signal.

74. (Previously Presented) A signal encoding method as claimed in claim 73, wherein said identification signal is inserted into the video signal and/or audio signal in such a configuration as to be detectable on statistical processing of the video signal and/or audio signal.

75. (Previously Presented) A signal encoding method as claim in claim 74, wherein said identification signal is inserted into least significant bits of samples of the video signal and/or audio signal.

76. (Canceled)

77. (Currently Amended) A signal encoder ~~characterized by~~ comprising:  
detecting means for detecting a high signal level portion of a video signal and/or audio signal in a predetermined time interval; and  
inserting means for inserting an identification signal relevant to the video signal and/or audio signal ~~only~~ within a low signal level portion temporally before or after the detected high level portion of the video signal and/or audio signal,  
wherein the identification signal includes noise-like bits that have a meaning at a certain time width that compulsorily sets a given domain to selected bits independent of a statistically represented signal.

78. (Previously Presented) A signal encoder as claimed in claim 77, wherein said identification signal is inserted into the video signal and/or audio signal in such a configuration as to be detectable on statistical processing of the video signal and/or audio signal.

79. (Previously Presented) A signal encoder as claimed in claim 78, wherein said identification signal is inserted into least significant bits of samples of the video signal and/or audio signal.

80. (Canceled)

81. (Previously Presented) A signal transmitting method comprising:

detecting a high signal level portion of a video signal and/or audio signal in a  
predetermined time interval;

inserting an identification signal relevant to the video signal and/or audio signal only  
within a low signal level portion temporally before or after the detected high level portion of the  
video signal and/or audio signal,

wherein the identification signal includes noise-like bits that have a meaning at a  
certain time width that compulsorily sets a given domain to selected bits independent of a  
statistically represented signal; and

transmitting the video signal and/or audio signal into which said identification signal has  
been inserted.

82-88. (Canceled)